DEVOTIONS TO ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Devotions

To

St. Joseph the Worker

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In 1955 Pope Pius XII established the liturgical feast of Saint Joseph the Worker and assigned the first day of May for the observance of this feast. In speaking of this His Holiness said, "This day, therefore, May the first, which is acclaimed by Christian workers, and has received, so to speak, its Christian baptism, will no longer be a stimulus of discord, hatred and violence. Instead, it is now and will be a recurring invitation to modern society to work for the accomplishment of a social peace which is still lacking. It is a Christian feast, then, which means that it is a day of rejoicing for the concrete and progressive triumph of Christian ideals among the great family of labor." (1)

In conformity with the desires of the Holy Father, the Bishops of our country requested, and received, permission to have the Mass, assigned to the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, celebrated as a special votive Mass on Labor Day. This special observance has been growing from year to year. As an effort to add, if possible, prayerful preparation for this observance, the devotions in this little booklet were compiled.

Keeping in mind that the Labor Day weekend is the end of vacation time for most people a triduum was prepared. However, since some would find a novena more

appropriate, an attempt is made to combine the features of both. Thus in effect three tridua are provided, which may be used alternately for three years, or which may be combined into a novena.

May those who use the prayers in this little compilation keep in mind the words of Pope Pius XII, and pray for the "Accomplishment of a social peace which is still lacking." And for, "The concrete and progressive triumph of Christian ideals among the great family of labor."

(1) "The Pope Speaks" Vol. 2, No. 2, p152.

PRAYERS FOR EACH DAY

(Priest) O Lord, open Thou our lips.

(All) And our voices shall declare Thy praise.

(Priest) Incline unto our aid O Lord.

(All) O Lord make haste to help us.

(Priest) Let us pray

O Lord, we implore Thee, let Thy inspiration precede our actions and Thy help further them, so that all our prayers and deeds may ever take their beginning from Thee, and so begun, may through Thee reach completion. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

LITANY OF SAINT JOSEPH

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven,
Have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.
God, the Holy Ghost,
Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity one God,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary,
Saint Joseph,
Renowned offspring of David,
Light of Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Diligent protector of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,
Joseph most just,
Joseph most chaste,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most strong,
Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,
Mirror of Patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of workers,
Glory of home life,
Guardian of virgins,
Pillar of families,
Solace of the wretched,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of Holy Church,

Pray for us

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

(Priest) He made him master of His own house:

(All) And guardian of all His possessions.

(Priest) Let us pray.

O God, Who in Thine unspeakable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may deserve to have him as our intercessor in heaven, whom we venerate on earth as our protector: Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

(Priest) Do thou, O glorious Joseph, help us with thy powerful prayer.

(All) And present our petitions to Almighty God, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Priest) Let us pray.

(All) Glorious Saint Joseph,/ pattern of all/ who are devoted to toil,/ obtain for me/ the grace to toil/ in the spirit of penance,/ in order therby/ to atone for my many sins;/ to toil conscientiously,/ putting devotion to duty/ before my own inclinations;/ to labor with thankfulness and joy,/ deeming it an honor/ to employ and to develop,/ by my labor,/ the gifts I have received from Almighty God;/ to work with order, peace, moderation, and patience,/ without ever shrinking from weariness/ and difficulties;/ to work above all with a pure intention/ and with detachment from self,/ having always before my eyes/ the hour of death/ and the accounting which I must then render/ of time ill-spent,/ of talents unemployed,/ of good undone,/ and of my empty pride in success,/ which is so fatal to the work of God./ All for Jesus,/ all through Mary,/ all in imitation of thee,/ O Patriarch Joseph!/ This shall be my motto in life and in death./ Amen.

FIRST TRIDUUM

FIRST DAY

SCRIPTURE READING From the Gospel of St. Matthew, 2nd Chapter - verses 13 to 15
. . . Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph, saying, "Arise, and take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and remain there until I tell thee. For Herod will seek the child to destroy him." So he arose, and took the child and his mother by night, and withdrew into Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod; that there might be fulfilled what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

(All) Joseph most strong,/ intercede for us with Jesus,/ Whom thou protected from the cruelty of Herod,/ that He may grant us the strength to overcome the powers of evil.

(Turn to prayer on page 10)

SECOND DAY

SCRIPTURE READING From the Gospel of St. Luke, 2nd Chapter - verses 48 to 51
And his mother said to him, "Son, why hast thou done so to us? Behold, thy father and I have been seeking thee sorrowing." And he said to them, "How is it that you

sought me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" And they did not understand the word that he spoke to them.

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them; and his mother kept all these things carefully in her heart.

(All) Joseph most obedient,/ to whom the Divine Child was subject,/ intercede with Him,/ that we might accept with joy/ the will of God in all things.

(Turn to prayer on page 10)

THIRD DAY

SCRIPTURE READING From the Gospel of St. John, 14th Chapter - verses 3 to 6

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again, and I will take you to myself; that where I am, there you also may be. And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where thou art going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him," I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me."

(All) Joseph most faithful,/ intercede for us with Jesus,/ that we may always be firm/ and loyal in following Him,/ Who is the way,/ and the truth,/ and the life.

(Turn to prayer on page 10)

SECOND TRIDUUM

FIRST DAY

SCRIPTURE READING From the Gospel of St. John, 3rd Chapter - verses 5 to 8
Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to thee, unless a man be born again of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not wonder that I said to thee, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it will, and thou hearest its sound but dost not know where it comes from or where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

(All) Joseph most just,/ intercede for us with Jesus,/ that we may ever remain united to Him/ through the bond of Sanctifying Grace.

(Turn to prayer on page 10)

SECOND DAY

SCRIPTURE READING From the Gospel of St. Matthew, 13th Chapter - verses 54 to 56
And coming to his own country, he began to teach them in their synagogues, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did he get this wisdom and these miracles? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brethren

James and Joseph and Simon and Jude? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Then where did he get all this?"

(All) Joseph model of workers/ intercede for us with Jesus,/ that the fruits of our labor may result/ in the blessing of creative work/ for the sanctification of ourselves/ and our fellow men,/ to the greater glory of God.

(Turn to prayer on page 10)

THIRD DAY

SCRIPTURE READING From the Epistle of St. James, 5th Chapter - verses 8 to 11
Do you also be patient; strengthen your hearts; for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain against one another, brethren, that you may not be judged. Behold, the judge is standing at the door. Take, brethren, as an example of labor and patience, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed who have endured. You have heard of the patience of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is merciful and compassionate.

(All) Joseph mirror of patience,/ intercede for us with Jesus,/ that we may endure humbly/ the trials and discouragements of this life,/ never despairing,/ but always turning in hope to our Saviour.

(Turn to prayer on page 10)

THIRD TRIDUUM

FIRST DAY

SCRIPTURE READING From the Gospel of St. Luke, 6th Chapter - verses 43 to 45
"For there is no good tree that bears bad fruit, neither, again, is there a bad tree that bears good fruit. For every tree is known by its fruit. For from thorns men do not gather figs, neither from a bramble do they harvest grapes. The good man from the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and the evil man from the evil treasure brings forth that which is evil. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

(All) Joseph most chaste,/ intercede for us with Jesus,/ that we may be pure of heart/ and remain always faithful to our state in life.

(Turn to prayer on page 10)

SECOND DAY

SCRIPTURE READING From the Gospel of St. Matthew, 7th Chapter - verses 24 to 27
"Everyone therefore who hears these my words and acts upon them, shall be likened to a wise man who built his house on rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, but it did not fall, because it was founded

on rock. And everyone who hears these my words and does not act upon them, shall be likened to a foolish man who built his house on sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and was utterly ruined."

(All) Joseph most prudent,/ intercede for us with Jesus,/ that we may ever remain aware/ of our true dignity and responsibility/ as creatures of God.

(Turn to prayer on page 10)

THIRD DAY

SCRIPTURE READING From the Gospel of St. Matthew, 6th Chapter - verses 19 to 21
"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where rust and moth consume, and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither rust nor moth consumes, nor thieves break in and steal. For where thy treasure is, there thy heart also will be."

(All) Joseph lover of poverty,/ intercede for us with Jesus,/ that we may maintain/ the spirit of detachment,/ so that no worldliness will rule our heart/ and turn us from God.

(Turn to prayer on page 10)

PRAYER OF POPE PIUS XII TO SAINT JOSEPH PATRON OF WORKERS

(All) O Glorious Patriarch, Saint Joseph,/ humble and just workman of Nazareth,/ who has given to all Christians,/ but especially to us,/ the example of a perfect life,/ which was both industrious in work/ and admirable in union with Mary and Jesus,/ assist our daily labor,/ in order that even we,/ Catholic workmen,/ may find in it the effectual means/ for glorifying God,/ for our sanctification, /and for being useful in the society in which we live,/ as the supreme ideals of all our actions.

O most beloved protector,/ obtain for us from the Lord,/ humility and simplicity of heart,/ love of work,/ good will towards those who work with us,/ conformity to the Divine Will/ in the inevitable trials of this life/ and joy in bearing them,/ awareness of our specific social mission,/ a sense of our responsibility,/ a spirit of discipline and prayer,/ docility and respect towards our superiors,/ fraternity towards our equals,/ and indulgence towards our dependents./

Be with us in prosperous times,/ when everything invites us to relish the fruits of our labor/ and support us in the hour of sorrow,/ when heaven seems to close on us/ and even the tools of our work rebel in our hands./ Grant, that in imitation of you,/ we hold our eyes fixed on our Mother, Mary,/ your most sweet spouse,/ who is silently working at her spinning,/ in a corner of your modest workshop,/ with a quiet gentle smile on her lips,/ nor let our glance overlook Jesus,/ who works with you at the carpenter's bench,/ so that we may lead/ a peaceful and holy life/ as a foretaste of that eternal happiness/ which awaits us in heaven,/ for ever and ever. Amen.

If a novena or triduum is observed over Labor Day weekend the following may be offered as a prayer for the safety and well-being of travelers.

(Priest) May Almighty God lead them along the ways of peace and safety and may the angel Raphael accompany them on their journey so that in peace and safety they may return to their own.

Let us pray

(All) O God,/ Who led Abraham, Thy servant,/ out of Ur of the Chaldeans,/ safeguarding him in all his wanderings,/ Who led the children of Israel/ through the sea over a dry path,/ and Who guided the Magi by a star;/ be pleased to grant to all who are traveling,/ a peaceful and safe journey,/ that accompanied by thy Angel/ they may reach their destination/ at this time,/ and in time to come arrive at the haven of eternal salvation./ Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Joseph and the Boy Christ
Luberoff